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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section below on or before [**INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER***].

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by email to BLS_PRA_Public@bls.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See Addresses section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) is a representative national sample of persons who were born in the years 1957 to 1964 and lived in the U.S. in 1978. These respondents were ages 14 to 22 when the first round of interviews began in 1979; they were ages 57 to 64 as of December 31, 2021. The NLSY79 was conducted annually from 1979 to 1994 and has been conducted biennially since 1994. The longitudinal focus of this survey requires information to be collected from the same individuals over many years in order to trace their education, training, work experience, fertility, income, and program participation.

In addition to the main NLSY79, the biological children of female NLSY79 respondents have been surveyed since 1986. A battery of child cognitive, socio-emotional, and physiological assessments was administered biennially from 1986 until 2012 to NLSY79 mothers and their children. Starting in 1994, children who had reached age 15 by

December 31 of the survey year (the Young Adults) were interviewed about their work experiences, training, schooling, health, fertility, self-esteem, and other topics. Funding for the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult surveys has been provided by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development through an interagency agreement with the BLS and through a grant awarded to researchers at the Ohio State University Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR). The collection referenced in this notice does not include a collection of the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult surveys, but additional collections may be contemplated in the future.

One of the goals of the Department of Labor (DOL) is to produce and disseminate timely, accurate, and relevant information about the U.S. labor force. The BLS contributes to this goal by gathering information about the labor force and labor market and disseminating it to policymakers and the public so that participants in those markets can make more informed, and thus more efficient, choices. Research based on the NLSY79 contributes to the formation of national policy in the areas of education, training, employment programs, school-to-work transitions, and preparations for retirement. In addition to the reports that the BLS produces based on data from the NLSY79, members of the academic community publish articles and reports based on NLSY79 data for the DOL and other funding agencies. To date, more than 2,750 articles examining NLSY79 data have been published in scholarly journals. The survey design provides data gathered from

the same respondents over time to form the only data set that contains this type of information for this important population group. Without the collection of these data, an accurate longitudinal data set could not be provided to researchers and policymakers, thus adversely affecting the DOL's ability to perform its policy- and report-making activities.

II. Current Action

The BLS seeks approval to conduct Round 30 of the NLSY79. Respondents of the NLSY79 will undergo an interview of approximately 69 minutes during which they will answer questions about schooling and training, employment and labor market experiences, family relationships, wealth, and expectations about the future. The NLSY79 Young Adult Survey will not be administered as part of Round 30; future collections of this survey are possible but not slated for current implementation.

During the field period, about 100 NLSY79 interviews will be validated to ascertain whether the interview took place as the interviewer reported and whether the interview was done in a polite and professional manner.

BLS has undertaken a continuing redesign effort to examine the current content of the NLSY79 and provide direction for changes that may be appropriate as the respondents age. The 2022 instrument reflects a number of changes recommended by experts in various fields of social science and by our own internal review of the survey's content.

Additions to the questionnaire are accompanied by deletions of previous questions so that the overall time required to complete the survey is estimated to be lower than in 2016, 2018, and 2020.

The Round 30 questionnaire includes new questions on health and nutrition, including consumption of fruit and vegetables, incidence of and vaccination against COVID-19, social and emotional loneliness, and the availability of funds to cover emergency expenses. It also includes questions about perceived discrimination in hiring, firing, promotions, and medical care. Several questions that have appeared in previous rounds of the NLSY79 but not in Round 29 will be cycled back in; these include questions about tasks performed on the job, the importance of religion to the respondent, and wills that the respondent may maintain.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

The BLS is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Title of Collection: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979.

OMB Number: 1220-0109.

Type of Review: Revision of a previously approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Form	Total Responde nts	Frequency	Total Re- sponses	Average Time per Response	Estimated Total Burden
NLSY79 Round 29 Main Survey	6,355	Biennially	6,355	69 minutes	7,308 hours
Round 29 Validation Interviews	100	Biennially	100	6 minutes	10 hours
TOTALS ¹	6,355	////////	6,455	////////	7,318 hours

¹ The difference between the total number of respondents (6,355) and the total number of responses (6,455) reflects the fact that about 100 respondents will be interviewed twice, once in the main survey and a second time in the 6-minute validation interview.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on February 24, 2022.

Eric Molina,

Acting Chief, Division of Management Systems.

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